PATENT

Attorney Docket: 022182-000056
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

William W. Jacobsen

Art Unit:

1711

Application Number:

09/900,129

Examiner:

Rajguru, U.

Filed:

July 6, 2001

For:

LIGNOCELLULOSE FIBER FILLER FOR THERMOPLASTIC

COMPOSITE COMPOSITIONS

Box: Amendments Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231 COPY OF PAPERS ORIGINALLY FILED

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action dated January 25, 2002, having a statutory, 3-month term that expired on April 25, 2002. A Petition for a 3-month extension of time, together with a check for the \$460.00 extension fee (small entity status) is enclosed in order to extend the time for responding up to and including <u>July 25, 2002</u>. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The gist of the present invention is a moldable thermoplastic composite comprising certain amounts of two specific components:

- (1) fiber that is lignocellulosic and strand-like in size, and
- (2) thermoplastic.

A coupling agent, such as maleic anhydride grafted polyethylene (i.e., a modified polyolefin), is optional.

Specifically, the composite contains about 20-50 weight % discontinuous lignocellulose fiber filler, which comprises at least about 20% by weight discontinuous lignocellulose fibers having a fiber length of at least about 15 mm and diameter of less than about 0.5 mm. Thus, the fibers